

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse comprising administering to the patient medication that includes a dose of clozapine, risperidone or both, effective to reduce alcohol use, or a method of making said  
5 medication for treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse.
2. A method of treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse comprising administering to the patient medication effective to strongly antagonize  $\alpha_2$  andrenergic receptors and to weakly antagonize dopamine D2 receptors, or a method  
10 of making said medication for treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse.
3. A method of treating, a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse comprising administering to the patient medication effective to rectify an alcohol abuse-associated dysfunction in the DA-mediated brain reward circuit, or a method of  
15 making said medication for treating a patient suffering from substance (particularly alcohol) abuse.
4. The method of any one of claims 1-3 in which the patient is not schizophrenic.
5. The method of any one of claims 1-3 in which the medication comprises clozapine.
6. The method of any one of claims 2-3 in which the medication comprises:  
20 (a) a first component which weakly blocks the D2 receptor; and  
(b) a second component which strongly blocks  $\alpha_2$  receptors.
7. The method of claim 6 in which the first component is selected from clozapine, risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine and ziprasidone.
8. The method of claim 6 or 7 in which the second component is idazoxan, or another  $\alpha_2$   
25 receptor antagonist.

9. The method of claim 2 in which the medication is formulated as a single dose comprising both the first and the second components.
10. The method of claim 2 or 3 in which the medication is characterized by a ratio of  $\alpha 2$  blockade: D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.

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- 5 11. The method claim 10 in which the medication is characterized by a ratio of  $\alpha 2C$  blockade: D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.

12. The method of claim 6 in which the medication strongly blocks the  $\alpha 2C$  receptor.

13. A cocktail comprising

(c) a first component which weakly blocks the D2 receptor; and

- 10 (d) a strong  $\alpha 2$  receptor antagonist.

14. The cocktail of claim 11 in which the first component is selected from clozapine, risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine and ziprasidone.

15. The cocktail of claim 11 or 12 in which the second component is idazoxan, or another  $\alpha 2$  receptor antagonist.

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- 15 16. The cocktail of claim 11 or 12 in which the cocktail is characterized by strong blockade of the  $\alpha 2C$  receptor.

17. The cocktail of claim 11 or claim 12 in which the cocktail is characterized by a ratio of  $\alpha 2$  blockade: D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.

18. The method claim 10 in which the cocktail is characterized by a ratio of  $\alpha 2C$  blockade: D2 receptor blockade similar to that of clozapine.

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